



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,642	04/18/2001	Roger P. Hoffman	P/2-92	9111
7590	07/26/2006		EXAMINER	
Philip M. Weiss, Esq. WEISS & WEISS 300 Old Country Road, Suite 251 Mineola, NY 11501			STARKS, WILBERT L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2121	

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

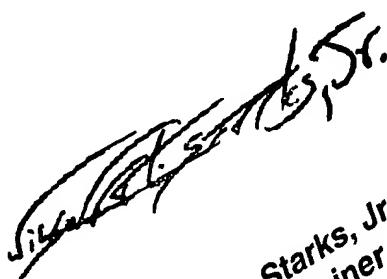
Examiner's Amendment

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A method for analyzing responses to requests for quotations (RFQ's) comprising:
 - analyzing responses to RFQ's to determine whether they conform to a rule based system;
 - classifying a quote based on a set of rules to determine whether the quote satisfies said rules of said company;
 - converting said quotes into a series of ordered blocks comprised of computer understandable character strings, which strings contain context of said quote;
 - locating and extracting words and word groups containing information believed to be relevant to said quote.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising;
 - comparing information extracted from said quote to guidelines provided by a company.
3. (Amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising rating each quote based on said guidelines.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein if said quote does not conform to said guidelines, no rating is given.

Art Unit: 2129

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said companies that are disqualified for not meeting said guidelines are listed for a user with a listing of reasons why said company is not qualified.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein each item in said quote is weighted.
7. The method of claim 2 further comprising;
dividing said guidelines into musts and wants.
8. A system for evaluating quotes comprising;
a digital computer system;
data derived from a printed quote;
said computer extracting words and word groups from said quote;
set of printed rules;
a rating for each quote based on said words and word ;
groups from said quote compared to said set of printed rules.
9. The system of claim 8 wherein said quote comprises price, delivery date, quantity, origination, name of company, whether the company has done business prior, or specification of the goods.



Wilbert L. Starks, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit - 2121